



Serial No. 09/493,530

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-12 are presenting pending in the application.

Claim 1 was objected to because there was a discrepancy between the marked up version of the claim and the claim as amended. Claim 1 as amended and a corrected marked up version have been provided by this amendment.

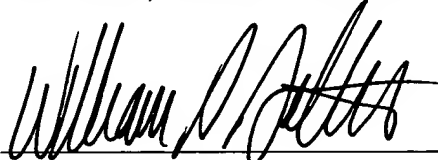
The Examiner has maintained the rejections of claims 1, 4-8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Anderson in view of Crea Nova Bulletin. Furthermore, the Examiner has maintained the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Anderson in view of the Crea Nova Bulletin and Sakakibara. Anderson discloses the elements of independent claims 1 and 8 except for the element of plastic particles within the epoxy paint coating. The Examiner relies upon the Crea Nova Bulletin to provide the missing element of the plastic particles. Applicants restate their previous argument that there is no motivation to utilize the plastic particles used in the lacquer disclosed in the Crea Nova Bulletin for the epoxy paint of Anderson. Additionally, Applicant's argue that there is no benefit of utilizing the plastic particles disclosed in Crea Nova Bulletin for the epoxy paint of Anderson. As discussed on page 4 of the Crea Nova Bulletin, the VESTOSINT plastic particles in VESTOSINT are used in the lacquer to "give structure and improve the abrasion resistance". The epoxy paint disclosed in Anderson is utilized for improved corrosion resistance achieved, in part, by improving adhesion between the epoxy paint and the metal coil. Accordingly, providing structure and improved abrasion resistance, as disclosed in the Crea Nova Bulletin, provides no benefit to the epoxy paint disclosed in Anderson. Therefore, it is inappropriate for the Examiner to combine Anderson and the Crea Nova Bulletin. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner has argued that it is not clear in which order these steps occur. However, Step 3 clearly comes prior to Step 1 as Step 3 includes the limitation "prior to being covered by said epoxy coating". Moreover Step 2 clearly comes after Step 1 as Step 2 states that the coating is cured on the metal tubing. Obviously, the coating cannot be cured on the metal tubing until after it is applied to the metal tubing, which occurs in Step 1. Applicants believe that no amendments to claim 1 is necessary, however, if the Examiner maintains the rejection of claim 1 under §112, second paragraph, Applicants will amend claim 1.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the pending claims in the application are allowable. Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William S. Gottschalk", written over a horizontal line.

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Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (AMENDED) A method of coating metal tubing comprising the steps of:
 - (1) applying an epoxy coating containing epoxy paint and plastic particles onto an outer surface of a metal tubing; [and]
 - (2) curing said coating on said metal tubing[.]; and
 - (3) applying a substrate to said metal tubing prior to being covered by said epoxy coating.

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